



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

National Agricultural Statistics Service • United States Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 1659 • Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659 • Phone (804) 771-2493

Internet: [nass-va@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-va@nass.usda.gov) • World Wide Web: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

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Contact: Steven Manheimer, State Statistician

Number: 6

Released: March 31, 2000

### **Survey Measures Use of Biotech Seed Varieties**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts March Agricultural Surveys in all states, except Alaska and Hawaii, each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States including producers in Virginia during the March Agricultural Survey were asked if they planted seed that, through biotechnology, was resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. The Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service (VASS) thanks those producers who responded to this survey that was conducted in early March.

Corn producers throughout the United States expect to plant 25 percent of their acreage using seed varieties that through biotechnology were insect-resistant, herbicide-resistant, or both. Soybean farmers in the U.S. expect to use biotech-developed seed to plant 52 percent of their acreage in 2000 to herbicide resistant varieties. U.S. cotton producers are using seed developed through biotechnology at a higher adoption rate than either corn or soybean farmers. Cotton farmers expect to plant 56 percent of their acreage using either herbicide-resistant varieties, insect-resistant varieties, or both.

Herbicide resistant varieties only include those developed using biotechnology. Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties were excluded from the March 2000 survey. Insect resistant varieties include those containing bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.) only. Stacked gene varieties include those containing biotechnology traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.